

# Children's Cabinet

July 7, 2021

# Agenda – 3-4pm

- Welcome, Introductions, and adoption of minutes (3 min)
- Presentations on Key Initiatives for Children & Youth in FY22 Budget (40 min)
  - RIDE
  - OPC
  - DLT
  - EOHHS
  - RIDOH
  - DHS
  - DCYF
  - BHDDH
- Public Comment (15 min)
- Adjournment

# RI Department of Education (RIDE)

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Below are RIDE's FY22 budget highlights for children and youth:

- The **Student Funding Formula** was fully funded, and LEAs were held harmless to student enrollment declines due to COVID-19.
- Includes funding for **additional RIDE staff** to support our school districts: one social studies specialist, one world language specialist, and two school analysts.
- **\$400,000** to pay for **Advanced Placement (AP) exam fees** for students with financial need.

# Office of the Post-Secondary Commissioner

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Key Investments included in the FY22 passed budget:

- Fully Funding Promise Scholarship - Promise 2 - \$7,680,838
  - The sunset has been removed and will be available for students for years to come.
- Rhode Island College Operating Support (\$5.9M):
  - This is for the Rhode Island College Operating Budget support.

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Northern RI Education Center (2FTE's):

- Budget included 2 new FTE's to support the new Workforce Center to open this fall in Woonsocket along with the Capital Funding for the building.

# Office of the Post-Secondary Commissioner

FY22 Budget included three initiatives funded with Governor Education Emergency Relief (GEER) funds that directly support the state's higher-education agenda.

- **Early Childhood Education Workforce Center (\$2,400,000):**
  - Design a workforce center in partnership with RIDE and DHS to increase opportunities for career advancement for early childhood workers, create a pathway to higher wages, and increase the quality of childcare
- **Support of Public Higher Education Institutions (\$520,000):**
  - Grants administered by OPC to public higher education institutions that can be used to address one of the following in light of the COVID pandemic:
    - Improve and expand offerings of Dual Credit coursework; Recruitment and Matriculation of students from Rhode Island PreK-12 school districts; Transfer Articulation and Seamless Transfer Pathways between 2 and 4 year degree programs
- **Northern RI Education Center (about \$480,000):**
  - Communicate and deliver higher education and workforce training programs at the Northern Rhode Island Center

# Department of Labor and Training

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## Key Initiatives for Children and Youth, FY22

- **Real Skills for Youth Program** (*\$1.2M granted for Summer 2021; additional state funds expected for AY21-22*):
  - Governor's Workforce Board-funded program, currently implemented by 18 grantees
  - Provides career exploration and work-based learning to youth ages 14-24 in summer and academic year
  - Program goals are for youth to understand career options, develop essential skills, understand work norms and culture and build professional networks
  - Summer 2021 programs are expected to serve over 800 youth with paid opportunities



# Department of Labor and Training

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## Key Initiatives for Children and Youth, FY22

- **PrepareRI High School Internship Program (\$1.1M granted):**
  - Governor's Workforce Board-funded program, implemented by Skills for RI's Future; additional funding from American Student Assistance
  - Provides paid summer internships for high school juniors at top RI employers
  - In Summer 2021, 300 students will participate in paid virtual industry projects in groups to solve real-world challenges submitted by employer partners
  - Over 80 coaches and mentors will support students throughout the summer

# Department of Labor and Training

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## Key Initiatives for Children and Youth, FY22

- **Title I Youth Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Program** (*PY21 funding is \$3.38M statewide*):
  - USDOL-funded program; administered by the two local workforce boards
  - Comprehensive youth employment program for serving eligible in-school or out-of-school youth, ages 14 to 24, who face barriers in education, training, and employment
  - Local boards grant funds to 6 providers to implement the required 14 program activities





# Executive Office of Health and Human Services

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## Key Initiatives for Children and Youth, FY22

- **Investing in Doula Services:** (\$0.1M GR/\$0.3M AF investment): Establishes medical assistance coverage and reimbursement rate for perinatal doula services
- **Investing in Community Health Workers:** (\$0.1M GR/ \$0.3M AF savings): Coverage of CHW services as a Medicaid benefit to assist Medicaid beneficiaries in addressing the social determinates of health. CHWs have demonstrated impact in improving health outcomes, increasing access to care, and reducing healthcare costs, including individuals ages 0-24. Fiscal impact is anticipated to result in savings because of research demonstrating a return on investment.
- **Home Stabilization Rate Increase:** (\$0.7M GR/\$1.5M AF): Funds a rate increase for home stabilization services. This program covers services that support eligible members in identifying, applying for, and navigating housing or rental assistance resources, transitioning into or maintaining housing, and preventing eviction.

# Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH)

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- **Family Home Visiting (\$605,538):** Creates general revenue funding to maintain programming
  - Combined with federal match, the Governor's budget will increase total funding to \$1.4 million.
  - This will allow Rhode Island to maintain its current capacity (i.e., 1,400 family home visit slots).
  - RIDOH's Family Visiting program supports families with young children (pregnancy - children up to age 5) experiencing adversity. The program supports physical and social-emotional health and education. Participating families experience positive gains in health, behavioral health, and education outcomes.
  - **Next Steps:** Develop billing structure to access funding

# RIDOH Benchmark Data:

Model	HFA	PAT	NFP	National Threshold Values - FY 2020
2019-2020	%	%	%	%
Breastfeeding	55%	57%	88%	42.7%
Depression Screening	95%	94%	77%	80.7%
Well Child Visit Completion	77%	76%	55%	66.6%
Safe Sleep	49%	47%	20%	54.7%
Parent-Child Interaction	54%	85%	16%	67.4%
Literacy Support	93%	94%	80%	74.6%
Developmental Screening	79%	59%	62%	74.8%
Behavioral Concerns	97%	94%	99%	91.1%
Parent Education	14%	5%	33%	29.9%
Insurance	92%	93%	92%	79.0%

- **First Connections-Prenatal Expansion: \$95,755**

- Combined with federal funds (\$131,045), the Governor's budget will provide total funding of \$226,800.
- First Connections is a short-term Family Visiting program that supports families experiencing adversity to promote healthier pregnancies, improved birth outcomes, and positive childhood development outcomes, including school readiness.
- Families who participate in First Connections are more likely to follow up with well child visits, get screened for lead poisoning or exposure, and be enrolled in evidence-based long-term programs.

# DHS Initiatives included in the FY22 Budget

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*Affordable and high quality child  
care for all Rhode Island families  
in need.*



# FY22 Budget and DHS Programs

There are several initiatives in the FY22 Budget that supports child care providers and their critical role in the State's COVID-19 recovery. The Office of Child Care is working to ensure these changes are operationalized and communicated effectively to the child care sector.

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RIW benefit increase and additional supports

03

CCAP family co-pays

02

CCAP rates

04

CCAP for college students

# Updates to RI Works

## The FY22 Budget includes an increase to RI Works Benefits and additional supports

- ➔ Increases the RI Works benefit by 30%, raising the amount for a family of three from \$554 to \$721. Rhode Island now issues the second highest TANF benefit in New England!
- ➔ Earned Income Disregard will allow parents to keep their RI Works benefits and keep their income for 6 months. Earned Income Disregard is only up to 185% FPL, and RI Works cases must have 48 Months or less of RI Works benefits.

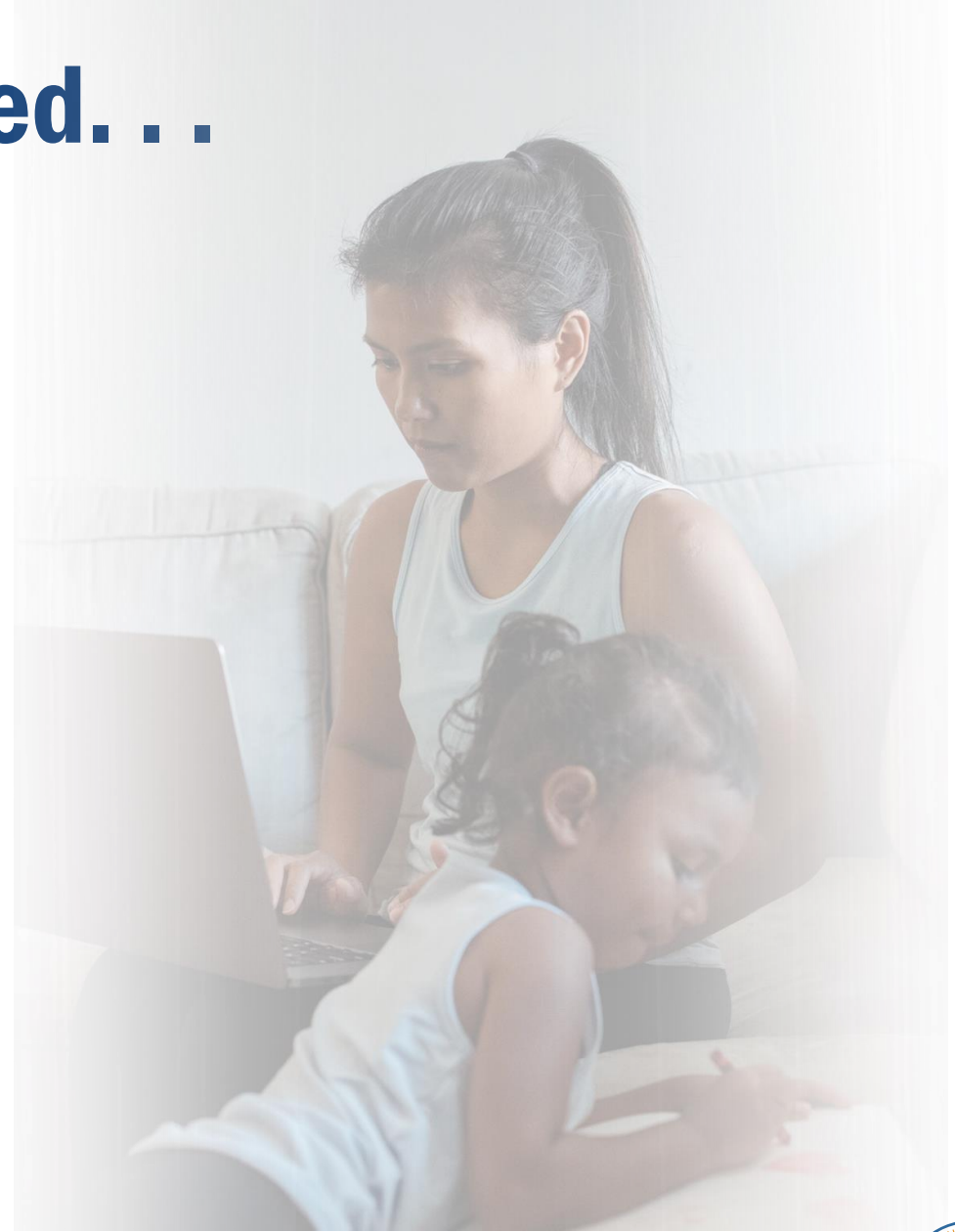




# Updates to RI Works Continued. . .

**The FY22 Budget includes increase to RI Works Benefits and additional supports**

- ➔ Simplify the 'dependent' definition to those who are 18 and can maintain their dependent status, so long as they are attending secondary school or equivalent.
- ➔ Clothing Allowance was expanded to all children in the RI Family, including 0-3 and non-RIW receiving children. The amount was approved for \$100 per child.





# CCAP Rates

**The FY22 Budget guarantees the COVID-19 enhanced rate will stay in effect through December 2021 for all CCAP providers**

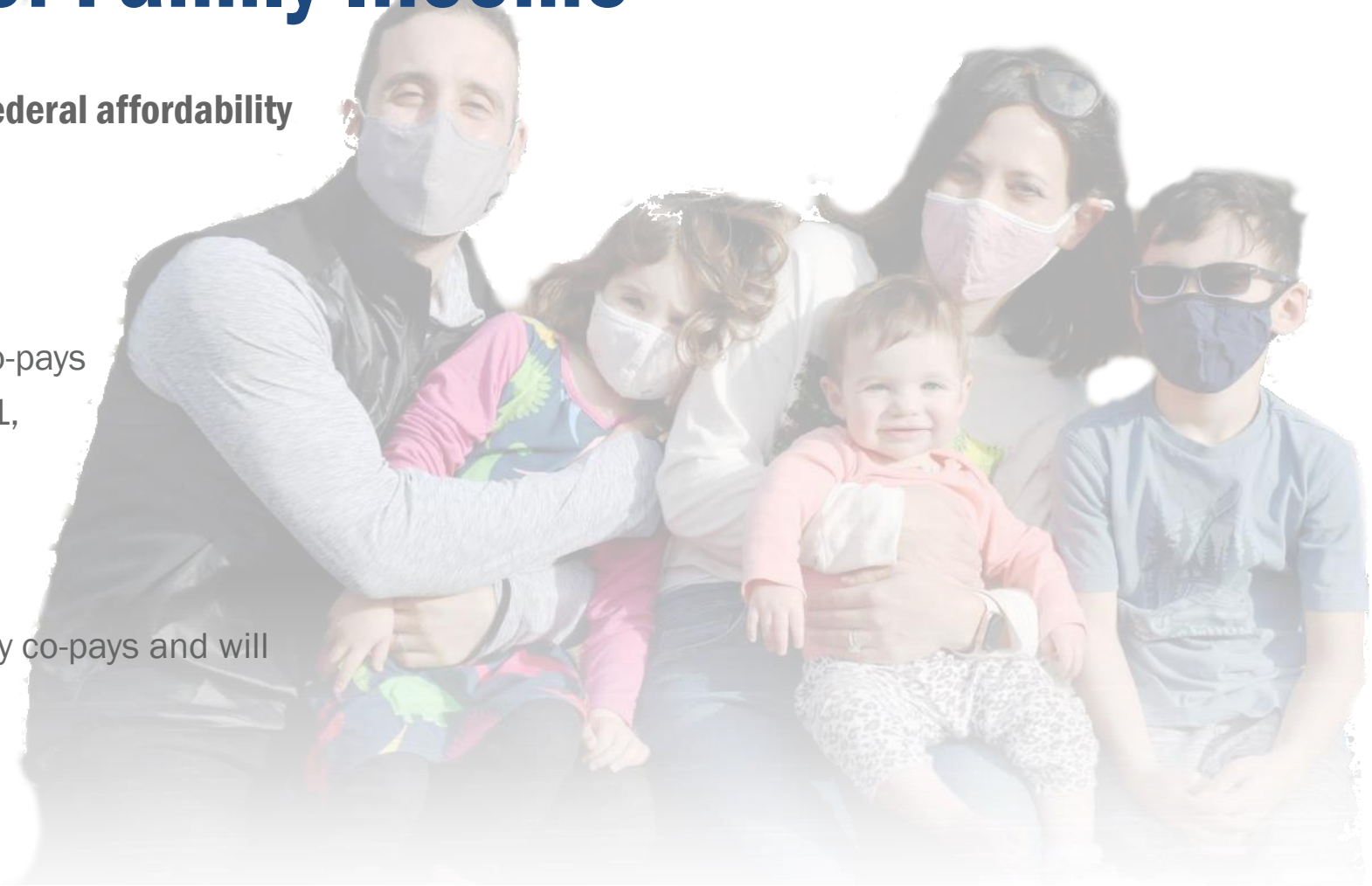
- ➔ The budget also includes new rates for licensed child care centers, effective January 1, 2022.
- ➔ Some rate categories for the new rates are higher than the COVID enhanced rate, depending on the child's age category and the provider's star rating.



# Caps Co-Pay at 7% of Family Income

**With this cap in family co-pays RI will meet the federal affordability standard.**

- ➔ Currently, families at 150% - 225% FPL have co-pays above 7% of gross income. Effective, January 1, 2022 co-pays will be capped at 7%.
- ➔ The State is currently covering the cost of family co-pays and will continue this through December 2021.



# Funds Pilot for Expanded CCAP Eligibility

A pilot program to extend CCAP eligibility for parents attending college has been included in the FY22 budget.

- ➔ Families that meet the income eligibility who are enrolled in a RI public institution of higher education are eligible for CCAP
- ➔ Funding for the pilot is capped at \$200,000



# Questions?

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# Budget Initiative: Investment in Workforce



- 19 new positions proposed (\$1.85M all funds):
  - 12 new positions to recruit, train, license, sustain, and support all foster parents
  - 4 child protective investigators
  - 2 paralegals
  - 1 utilization management staff

## How positions will strengthen operations:

- Supports Rightsizing of Foster Care initiatives, such as *Rhode to 250* campaign
- Continues to reduce FSU and CPS caseload levels
- Expands Legal office capacity
- Ensures regular monitoring of appropriate placements

# Budget Initiative: Increase in Psychiatric Residential Treatment Capacity

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- \$1.0M in general revenue (\$3.5M all funds) to expand capacity for psychiatric residential treatment for adolescent females and males
- Particularly increases options for females with behavioral healthcare needs that are currently being served in out-of-state facilities
- Promotes family reunification efforts
- Prevents youth from remaining in inappropriate settings due to lack of placement options



# Budget Initiative: Implementation of Modern Information System

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- 23-year-old RICHIST system no longer meets DCYF's operational needs.
- A modern system would optimize the availability of data to:
  - Inform case management decisions, current and prospective programming.
  - Measure outcomes of our children and families.
  - Meet reporting needs and maximize funding opportunities.
  - Improve interfaces with education, court and HHS systems.
- Pandemic has further exposed need for technology to support a mobile workforce.
- Budget supports \$28M over three fiscal years for implementation, beginning in FY 22.





# Additional DCYF Budget Priorities

## Extreme Family Finding

An evolving practice and provides intensive searches through a private investigator and technology that assist in identifying family and potential connections for youth who have challenging behaviors, mental health issues, and/or physical disabilities.

\$132,000 GR

## Family First Prevention Act

Proposed increase in general revenue finances mandates included in the Family First Prevention Services Act, which takes effect 10/1/21. DCYF expects to see a reduction in federal reimbursements as the result of investments in family placements.

\$388,000 GR

## Fleet Modernization

This initiative would replace half the Department’s fleet, totaling 40 vehicles. Twenty vehicles will be purchased through the State Fleet Revolving Loan Fund, which will be paid over the following three years (FY 23-FY 25). The remaining 20 vehicles will be leased.

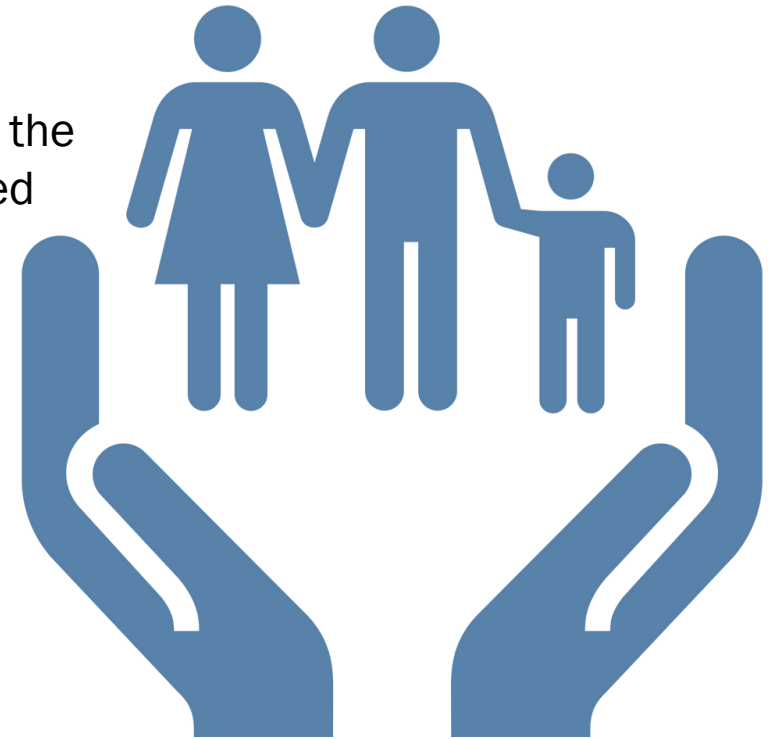
\$63,209 GR for leasing



# New Budget Initiative: Accreditation

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- RIGL 42-72-5.3 required DCYF to submit a plan no later than October 1, 2020, to pursue national human services accreditation through the Council on Accreditation (COA).
- The Department's plan proposed a 48-month timeline to pursue accreditation.
- Based on that report, the General Assembly approved \$9.4M in general revenues for all accreditation costs, including \$8.8M for the 75 positions the Department identified as necessary to become accredited. It also included \$600K for other identified costs, including accreditation fees.
- The 75 positions are in addition to the 16 new frontline positions that were already included in the Governor's budget recommendation.



# RI Dept. of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities & Hospitals (RI BHDDH)

## Fiscal Year 2022: Key Initiatives for Children and Youth

**FY22 initiatives for children and youth that BHDDH will support using state restricted receipt funding will include:**

- Grants to Regional Prevention Coalitions: Using Opioid Stewardship Funds, BHDDH will make grants totaling \$500,000 to support each of the state's 7 regional prevention coalitions in their efforts to provide local substance use prevention and education resources for youth.

**FY22 initiatives for children and youth that BHDDH will support using federal funding will include:**

- Kid's Link, 24-hour hotline for children/youth crisis services
- Student Assistance Services (RISAS), a program targeting youth substance use that operates in schools
- Homebuilders: Program to prevent first-time out-of-home care placement when it is imminent, get kids back home from placement (home within 7 days of start of Homebuilders), and reduce re-referrals of abuse and neglect
- Strong African American Families (SAAF): 7-session program designed for youth aged 10–14 and their caregivers, to build on the strengths of African American families
- Healthy Transitions: Provides wraparound services and supports to youth and young adults aged 16-25 with serious mental illness
- State Youth Treatment: Program provides comprehensive counseling that incorporates work on alcohol and other drug problems for youth and young adults ages 12 – 25
- Funds for youth & family advocacy as well as peer support/education

# Public Comment

